



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transit & Rail

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TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
FROM: Sophie Shulman, Chief, Office of Innovative Mobility
David Krutsinger, Director, Division of Transit & Rail
Brodie Ayers, Project Coordination Unit Manager
DATE: August 14, 2020
RE: \$1 Million Fund from the State Legislature regarding "Transportation Services for Vulnerable Populations, Including Seniors."

Purpose

Distribute \$1 Million in Vulnerable & Senior Transportation Funds to Appropriate Transit Agencies

Action

Approve the distribution of this \$1 Million in funds, with responsibility delegated to the five Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the state for the urban funds.

Background

The State Legislature in June 2020, through HB 20-1381, retracted \$10 Million in multimodal option funds (MMOF) previously provided through SB 18-001. A general fund transfer of \$1 Million was then provided back to CDOT through CDOT's annual appropriation in the State Budget "Long Bill". The \$1 Million is dedicated to "Transportation Services for Vulnerable Populations, Including Seniors."

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided funding for many transit agencies, but left out agencies who receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 funds. FTA 5310 funds are dedicated to "Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities." Some agencies receive both FTA 5311 and FTA 5310 funds, and CDOT has provided limited funding to such agencies through the CARES Act distribution process. The number of agencies who receive 5310 funds is around 39 (updated Listing attached)

Details

There are two key decisions: (1) rural/urban split, and (2) allocation of responsibility/accountability

1. There are three existing formulas which provide policy precedents for distribution of these funds:
 - FTA 2020 5310 Apportionments: 15% dedicated to rural areas, and 85% to urban areas.
 - State allocation for MMOF: 18% dedicated to rural areas, and 81% to urban areas.
 - State statute for SB 267: 25% dedicated to rural areas, and 75% to urban areas.

Beyond this higher level of rural/urban split, the urban areas would be allocated according to the 5310 ratios among the MPOs, and CDOT would contract directly with the rural sub-recipients. Even though the 25% dedicated to rural areas might appear to slant towards rural areas, the numbers come pretty close to parity, on average. The average urban area agency would receive \$33,000 in shares of this funding, vs an average of \$16,000 per rural agency. On a per-capita basis, the average urban area receives 16.6 cents per capita in shares of this funding, and the rural areas about 19.3 cents per capita. The statewide averages would be \$26,000 per agency, and 17.2 cents per capita. Given the relatively small amount of money to distribute, overall, this is a reasonable conclusion.

2. The State Controller has given CDOT permission to directly transfer some to all of these funds to speed the efficiency of distribution. If CDOT transfers the funds to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), rather than contracting them, the dollars are delivered to the intended sub-recipients more quickly, and accountability for the funds is also transferred to the MPOs (read: local control). On the other hand, if CDOT contracts with the MPOs, funding to the sub-recipients takes more time, and accountability for the funds is more consistent across MPOs. Under the "transfer" option, MPOs would have full authority to choose which agencies receive funding,

and how much per agency, based on each of their own Area Agency on Aging, MPO technical advisory committee, and MPO Board decision structures. Agencies could *not* count on the averages stated above, but instead, would be allocated funding based on goals, priorities, and performance measures established by the MPOs.

Recommendation

The staff recommendation is to use the 25% dedicated to rural areas, and 75% to urban areas, and to transfer funds to the MPOs, with allocations as follows:

- DRCOG \$375,000 directly transferred, DRCOG makes sub-allocation decisions
- GVMPO \$60,000 directly transferred, GVMPO makes sub-allocation decisions
- NFRMPO \$115,000 directly transferred, NFRMPO makes sub-allocation decisions
- PACOG \$60,000 directly transferred, PACOG makes sub-allocation decisions
- PPACG \$140,000 directly transferred, PPACG makes sub-allocation decisions
- Rural/CDOT \$250,000 for rural agencies, CDOT to contract with sub-recipients

Policy Options

1. Accept and approve both the allocation and the delegation of responsibility to MPOs. (Staff Recommendation)
2. Accept and approve only the allocation, but direct CDOT to retain more responsibility through contracting. (Slower in distributing funds, but acceptable to CDOT staff).
3. Accept neither, and refer the staff to refine the proposal.

Next steps

- STAC & TRAC Reviews & Recommendations August 14th
- Transportation Commission Review & Approval August 19th & 20th, respectively
- August 24th begin contracting and/or transfers appropriate to the decision

Attachment: Listing of Potentially Eligible Agencies

Listing of Potentially Eligible Agencies

(5310 Transit Agencies Who Receive Funding from CDOT or MPOs/Others Who Coordinate with CDOT)

Denver Metropolitan Area / DRCOG Region

1. A Little Help
2. Broomfield, City and County of
3. Clear Creek County / Prospector Transit
4. Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC)
5. Continuum of Colorado
6. Developmental Pathways
7. Douglas County
8. Easter Seals Colorado
9. Goodwill Industries of Denver
10. Lakewood, City of
11. Laradon Foundation
12. Littleton Omnibus
13. Via Mobility

GVMPO Region / Grand Junction Area

1. Family Health West
2. HopeWest

NFRMPO Region / Fort Collins - Greeley - Loveland Area

1. North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization

PACOG Region / Pueblo Area

1. Seniors Resource Development Agency (SRDA)

PPACG Region / Colorado Springs Metropolitan Area

1. Community Services & Supports
2. Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado
3. Disability Services, Inc., dba Envida
4. El Paso Fountain Valley Senior Citizens Program Inc.
5. Rocky Mountain Health Care Services (RMHCS)
6. Silver Key Senior Services

Rural Agencies / CDOT

1. Baca County Seniors Van
2. Blue Peaks Developmental Services
3. Community Connections, Inc.
4. Community Options
5. Daybreak
6. Horizons Specialized Services
7. Inspiration Field
8. Johnstown Senior Center
9. Lake County
10. La Plata County Senior Services
11. Mountain Family Center
12. Mountain Valley Developmental Service
13. Northwest Colorado Center for Independence (NWCCI)
14. Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)
15. Platteville, Town of
16. Routt County Government